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3 May 2005

By fax No 00 49 89 2399 4465 and Courier Service

Dear Sirs

International patent application No PCT/DK2004/000472
Applicant: Bentle Product AG et al
International classification: IPC A01C1/04
My ref: 79312 TN/kp

Referring to the International Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority of 6 October 2004 the European Patent Office is hereby requested to carry out a detailed preliminary examination according to the enclosed DEMAND.

The official fee for the examination should be deducted from my account as per the enclosed fee calculation sheet.

Substitute pages 1, 1a, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 on which the preliminary examination is to be based are submitted. The substitute pages include an amended set of claims (pages 15-19) and amended pages (1, 1a, 2, 2a, 3-14) of the description adapted thereto. The amendments carried out also appear from the enclosed handwritten draft. No new subject matter has been introduced by the amendments carried out.

The new claim 1 corresponds to the old claims 1 and 4 in amalgamated form with some revisions of the wording.

The new claims 2-4 correspond to the old claims 5, 8 and 9.

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The new claim 5 corresponds to the old claim 13.

The new claim 6 corresponds to the old claim 16.

The new claim 7 corresponds to the old claim 18.

The new claims 8-10 correspond to the old claims 20-22.

The new claims 11 and 12 correspond to the old claims 25 and 27.

The old claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 have been cancelled.

Re: Item 2 Interpretation of claims 22 and 29

ad item 2.1

The old claim 22 (new claim 10) has been amended to a claim for "A seed tape" so that the claim fits into the row of other "seed tape"-claims.

Ad item 2.2

As to the old claims 23-28 please note that claims 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 have been cancelled. From said group of claims only the old claims 25 (new claim 11) and 27 (new claim 12) have been maintained.

Ad item 2.3

As to the old claim 29 this claim has been cancelled for which reason I shall not make further comments thereon.

Re: Item 3. Independent claim 1

Ad item 3.1

I agree with the Examiner.

Ad item 3.2

The new claim 1 has been worded on the background of document D1 (WO 00/00007A) as prior art. The characterising portion of claim 1 consists of the sentence indicated in item 3.2:

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"... the fibres of one or more thermoplastic materials which form the network are bicomponent fibres" plus the contents of the old claim 4.

Ad item 3.1.1

I agree. The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as "improving the efficiency with which the granules (granulates) of the mixture are kept together."

Ad item 3.1.2 and 4

The old claims 2,3,6,7,10,11,12,14,15,17,19,23,24,26,28 and 29 have been cancelled; for this reason I shall not comment further on the Examiner's remarks to these claims.

The Examiner states that the old dependent claims 4,5,8,9,13,16,18,20,21,25 and 27 are not disclosed in any documents cited in the Search Report. I agree. To ensure the inventive step of the new claim 1 I have incorporated the old dependent claim 4 in the new claim 1. The old dependent claims 5,8,9,13,16,18,20,21,25 and 27 appear as new dependent claims 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11 and 12; the old claim 22 appears as a new dependent claims 10.

Re: Item 5 Independent claim 22 (new claim 10)

Ad. item 5.1

Applicant has delimited the old claim 22 to a product claim (new claim 10) dependent on the old claims 1-20 (new claims 1-9).

Ad item 5.2 and 5.3

As mentioned applicant prefers to delimited the old claim 22 (new claim 10) to a product claim which depends on claim 1-9.

Based on the above the Examining Division is hereby respectfully requested to accept the patentability of the present invention.

Yours faithfully

CHAS. HUDE A/S

Eage Nørgaard
Eage Nørgaard

Representative of the applicant

Encs